6th Grade Activity 1: “Organ Donation”

Learning goals:
After completing this exercise students should be able to:
• Express their opinions about organ donation.
• Construct and interpret a column graph or histogram from data.

“Flow” A Story About Organ Donation
Watch the video “Flow”. This video tells the story of a young man who receives a heart transplant and then meets the brother of the donor. It is an emotional story. It may bring up questions or issues about organ donation. After watching the video, you may discuss your reactions to the video as a class. Then you will be asked to complete the following activity that looks at your opinions about organ donation.

I. Your Opinions:
This is an opportunity for you to state your opinion based on what you believe. Opinions are different from facts. While facts require evidence to back them up, opinions are based on values and beliefs. For each of the statements below, state whether you agree or disagree with the statement. There is no “right” or “wrong” answer. Mark your answer on the student worksheet.

1.) Being an organ donor is a good way to help other people, even after you die.

2.) If a person has agreed to be an organ donor, doctor’s will not try as hard to save that person’s life if they are injured.

3.) In order to have a proper burial, a person’s body needs to be buried intact (with all of their organs).

4.) The people who should be first on the list to get an organ transplant should be the people who are the sickest.

5.) A person who is 80 years old should have the same chance of having a transplant as someone who is 8 years old.

II. Complete the table on the Student Worksheet with opinions from the whole class.
III. Make a double bar graph of your data.

Example of a double bar graph or comparison graph.
Organ Donation Fact Sheet

- In 2003, there were approximately 3,700 people on the waiting list for heart transplants in the United States.
- In addition to the heart many other organs and tissues may be donated including skin, bone and cartilage, ligaments and tendons, bone marrow, cornea, kidney, liver, lung, small intestine and pancreas.
- Brain death is when the brain permanently stops working. It is not the same thing as a coma. A person cannot recover from being brain dead. A doctor is required to declare a person brain dead before any organs can be removed for transplantation.
- Organs must be removed from the donor within 8-16 hours after brain death.
- A transplanted heart may be preserved for 4-6 hours between donation and transplantation in the recipient.
- While most major religions support organ donation, one can read about how specific religions feel about organ donation at the following website:
- [http://www.donor-awareness.org/rac_beliefs.htm](http://www.donor-awareness.org/rac_beliefs.htm)